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Identical letters dated 22 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I am pleased to inform you that on 18 June 2004 President Omer Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir decreed the following measures on the situation in Darfur.

First: a general mobilization of the state apparatuses is declared, with a view to consolidating security and tranquillity, pursuing all outlawed groups, including the Janjaweed, Tora Bora and Peshmerga, disarming the outlawed and bringing them to justice, as well as stopping any groups from crossing the borders and threatening the stability of sisterly neighbouring Chad.

Second: the judiciary in Darfur will establish special courts to prosecute bandits and criminals without delay.

Third: the police forces will be deployed to protect the municipalities to enable citizens to return to their villages.

Fourth: all ministries (departments), including those of agriculture and finance in particular, are instructed to make available the required seeds for the success of the staple crops this season.

Fifth: all ministries concerned are instructed to implement the contingency plan for the development and provision of basic services under the direct supervision of the Federal Council of Ministries (National Cabinet).

Sixth: all governmental and non-governmental organizations are called upon to embark on a comprehensive campaign to render humanitarian assistance that would enable the internally displaced to return to their homes and to provide them with food, clothes, and medicine.

Seventh: the citizens of all regions of the country, in particular the citizens of Darfur, are called on to come together in a conference that would promote a national dialogue to mend the social fabric and bring about national reconciliation.

I enclose herewith the original text of the presidential decree (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

04-40430 (E) 280604

Annex to the identical letters dated 22 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

God most High said: "Hold fast, all of you, to the rope of God and do not become divided. Remember God's favour to you, for you were enemies and He united your hearts so that you became brothers by His grace." God has spoken the truth.

Citizens, noble Brothers, now that the first signs of the true dawn of the coming peace have become visible in the skies of our country, and the light has begun to pierce the deep darkness that prevailed yesterday, promising to extinguish the grief and bitterness of the past, a fierce campaign has been unleashed in the hostile media to conceal from people the vision of the clear truth and sow fresh discord. Yet those efforts cannot obscure the truth. The bloody events that have taken place in Darfur have been cruel not merely for the people of Darfur, but for all the people of the Sudan. Darfur is known for its history, its Islamic cultural heritage and its constant contributions since the time of its ancient sultanates, with their glorious forums and halls of science. A cradle of civilization, Darfur has been, is still, and by the grace of God will continue to be the faithful custodian of the Book of God, its recitation and related scholarship and practice.

Noble Citizens,

For us, Darfur is the most important pillar of national unity. For that reason the Salvation Government has been eager to achieve a leap forward in the development of Greater Darfur, as it well deserves, and not to cause any harm. This has been embodied in universities and a revolution in higher and general education, as well as in the fields of water, health, education and production. It has also taken the form of development projects now starting up in all fields, as in the case of the revival of the projects at Jebel Marra, Saq, Umm Baydabah and Umm `Ajajah, and in airports, the Western Salvation highway, etc., all of which bear witness to our concern with Darfur. We shall remain committed to its renaissance and development on the human level as well as in terms of its land, heritage and history.

Noble Citizens,

The ordeal that has beset our people in Darfur has only made them tougher and more determined to preserve the fabric of their society. The organs and institutions of the State have met that determination with greater readiness to repress civil strife, which has been done through the effective role played by the armed forces, the police force and other popular forces in an effort to crush rebellion and promote the moral authority of the State and the protection of the law. Here we commend the role of the citizens and both governmental and grass-roots bodies in their assistance to the State in overcoming strife. We affirm once again our commitments undertaken at N'Djamena and emphasize that the security of our neighbour Chad is an inseparable part of the security of the Sudan. Therefore, we will not allow anyone to destabilize Chad from Darfur. We call upon all to proceed to complete the steps taken through the comprehensive dialogue for the inhabitants of Darfur and all

inhabitants of Sudan within the country with a view to completing and supplementing the initiatives taken at the governmental and grass-roots levels.

Noble Citizens,

In line with our earlier declaration concerning the end of military operations and the containment of rebellion and strife, and in order to close the doors of evil, I declare the following:

I. All apparatuses shall be mobilized with a view to consolidating security and stability; controlling and pursuing all outlaw rebel groups, including Janjaweed, Tora Bora and Peshmerga; disarming outlaws and bringing them to justice; and preventing any groups from crossing our border with neighbouring Chad and disrupting stability there;

II. The judicial bodies in Darfur shall establish public prosecutors' offices and courts to punish plundering bands and offenders without delay;

III. Police forces shall be deployed to protect localities and to permit the return of citizens to their villages in order to ensure security at the level of the federal, state and local authorities;

IV. I instruct all ministries, and in particular the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance, to provide the necessary seeds for the success of the current crop season;

V. I instruct all the competent ministries to implement emergency development programmes and provide the necessary services under the supervision of the Council of Ministers, and to furnish the necessary financing;

VI. I call upon all official and grass-roots organizations to embark on a comprehensive campaign to attend to humanitarian matters with a view to the return of internally displaced persons and the provision of shelter, food, clothing and medicine for them;

VII. I issue an appeal to the inhabitants of all states, and in particular Darfur, to work in earnest to mend society and bring about solidarity, dialogue and initiatives aimed at the holding of a comprehensive conference.

Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

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Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force of 21 June 2004 (S/2004/499), and also reaffirming its resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000,

1. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973;

2. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for a period of six months, that is, until 31 December 2004;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of this period, a report on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338 (1973).

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Letter dated 21 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Equatorial Guinea issued by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on 17 June 2004 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland
to the United Nations

04-40535 (E) 290604

Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on Equatorial Guinea issued by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on 17 June 2004

The European Union welcomes the forthcoming opening of the new Parliament of Equatorial Guinea after the holding of parliamentary and municipal elections on 25 April 2004. The European Union believes that the process leading to the opening of the new parliamentary session contains both positive and negative aspects which the new Government should consider in the future.

The European Union considers that the electoral campaign was conducted in a peaceful way and allowed political parties to carry out their activities in an atmosphere of relative normality. The European Union welcomes the Government's decision to introduce the use of transparent ballot boxes. Nevertheless, the Spanish parliamentary observers present in the country detected important irregularities that distorted the electoral process in violation of the agreements between the Government and the democratic opposition reached in Mbini in August 2003.

Therefore, while recognizing that some progress was made in the process of transition to democracy, the European Union believes that the elections failed to constitute a Parliament reflecting the political diversity of the society of Equatorial Guinea, given that the opposition was not adequately represented in the elections.

The European Union wishes to welcome the participation of the opposition, which will be represented in the new Parliament only by two members of Parliament, once they have finally decided to accept the two seats allocated in the official results.

The European Union calls upon the authorities of Equatorial Guinea to allow this opposition to participate in the parliamentary sessions, exercising their freedoms and rights, and for them to be provided with the necessary material means. The European Union also considers that they should be granted free and substantive access to the public media so that they can inform the whole of the population about their activities.

The European Union hopes that the Parliament will be in a position to exert its monitoring role over the executive, that it will contribute to implementing a programme of good economic governance, equitable distribution of national wealth, and sound and transparent management of oil revenues, in the furtherance of a sustainable development policy that benefits the whole population of Equatorial Guinea.

Finally, the European Union expresses its commitment to cooperate with the Government of Equatorial Guinea with the goal of promoting a transition to a full democracy within a framework of respect for fundamental rights and freedoms. The European Union welcomes the letter from the Government of Equatorial Guinea dated 14 April 2004, inviting the Commission to dispatch a mission to Equatorial Guinea to discuss those issues. The signing of the national indicative programme for

the ninth European Development Fund is dependent on the willingness of the authorities of Equatorial Guinea to observe those principles in an internationally accepted manner.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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25 June 2004

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Letter dated 23 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the closure of the Tribune newspaper, Zimbabwe, issued on 23 June 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

04-40557 (E) 280604

Annex to the letter dated 23 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the closure of the Tribune newspaper, Zimbabwe, issued on 23 June 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union condemns the closure of the Tribune newspaper by the Media and Information Commission of Zimbabwe. The European Union reiterates its call upon the Government of Zimbabwe to suspend the implementation of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, under which the Media and Information Commission took this action, so as to ensure full freedom of expression and the removal of unnecessary restrictions on accreditation.

The European Union views this action as a further attack on freedom of expression and democratic space in Zimbabwe. This is of particular importance in the context of approaching elections — free press being a necessary prerequisite of a democratic society.

The European Union calls upon the Government of Zimbabwe to respect the freedom of the media and to desist from using repressive legislation, such as the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to silence critical voices.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with the present statement.